



Senate Information Office

201 Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404.656.0028 or outside the Atlanta area 800.282.5803

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
January 25, 2006

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Information Contact:
Merri M. Brantley, Director
Jack Holt, Deputy Director
jack.holt@senate.ga.gov
404.657.4478

Shafer, Wiles introduce legislation banning sale of cell phone calling history

ATLANTA –Senators David Shafer (R-Duluth) and John Wiles (R-Kennesaw) today announced that they have introduced legislation aimed at prohibiting the sale of cell phone records without the consent of the consumer. Senate Bills 455 and 456 were filed with the Secretary of the Senate's office this morning.

“This is an outrageous invasion of privacy that our cell phone records can be bought and sold on the internet,” said Sen. Shafer, author of SB 455. “Our cell phone records belong to us and they deserve legal protection.”

SB 455, if passed, would prohibit cell phone companies from selling or releasing cell phone records without the consent of the customer. It also would ban information brokers from obtaining and selling this information. Shafer's bill would require cell phone companies to implement measures to protect cell phone records from unauthorized disclosure.

“This is a comprehensive bill protecting the privacy of the citizens of this state,” added Sen. Shafer.

SB 456, authored by Sen. Wiles, would provide for penalties for those that engage in the sell and trade of cell phone records. Under Wiles' legislation, those who are found guilty of illegally selling this information could face felony charges and up to 10 years in prison and/or \$100,000 fine.

“It is appalling to me that there are individuals and companies out there that are making profits off of our private information,” said Sen. Wiles. “This bill should send them a clear message that we are not going to tolerate this in Georgia and that the potential profit from selling this information is not worth the risk of getting caught.”

#

Sen. David Shafer of the 48th Senate district may be reached at 404.651.7738 or david.shafer@senate.ga.gov. He represents a portion of Gwinnett County.

Sen. John Wiles represents the 37th Senate District which includes a portion of Cobb County. He may be reached by phone at 404.657.0406 or by e-mail at john@johnwiles.com.